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BALLOUVILLE

The following letter has been received from their son by Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Woodward:

Thielt, Belgium, Nov. 28-9, 1918.

Dear Father:—Undoubtedly by this time you have ceased worrying about me, although your letter of Oct. 16, which I received last night, states that you had not heard from me for five weeks. But I never let that length of time go by without writing, even though I have neglected you during the past two weeks. But we have been busy, very busy lately, moving from commune to commune in Belgium, and as I am now rather settled in the office for the rest of my army days (owing to one man's transfer above me), I have had considerable paper-work in keeping run of where we have been, and making out reports for each place. You see the office works just the same whether we move or not. Thus, your change of location is almost daily, and two-thirds of the day is spent on the march, not much time remains to do the required paper-work in. The censorship has changed things a bit, so now we can write anything except about deaths of friends, etc.

I am in Thielt now, which is the largest city in Belgium, having twenty thousand inhabitants. We don't know how long we will be here, but presumably ten days. Then there are rumors of a Paris parade, a rest camp, a ship, and America. We do not think we are in the army of occupation which stays three years, yet there are disheartening reports that we may remain six months. What we all rejoice in, however, is that the war is over. We can be killed more comfortably all the time now.

The battles on my service record read: Flanders, second battle of Marne, Aug. 2-Sept. 10; Argonne, Sept. 26-Oct. 10; Lys-Scheldt, Belgium, Oct. 21-Nov. 11. Here are the places in which I have been in France, Flanders and Courment, between Char-

teau-Thierry and Fismes, Treloup, St. Martin, Chateau du Bussamont (Sept. 26), Ravin, Clermont, Forest of Argonne, Givry.

In Belgium we have moved so often and so long that to enumerate them would confuse you and me both. I'll tell you all of them some day, though, I hope. I want to the motion pictures here in Thielt last night, for the first time in months. They were in French and Flemish, the former being intelligible to me. In America one would have called them good pictures, but here they were a treat. Had an unusually good Thanksgiving breakfast. It must have been a good omen of the dinner I am soon to eat.

Thielt is not very badly shot to pieces compared with many towns I have seen, but the effects of the war are apparent in more ways than one. For instance, there is a piece of canvas instead of a window pane in front of the desk where I am writing. The people of the city are most of them well dressed and have money, yet food is so scarce that even money cannot procure an abundance. Clean looking children of good families are reduced to begging food from the Americans. They draw the bread-scrap from our garbage can. I have even had them stick their hands into the stew I was about to throw from my mess pan.

But the war is over now, and already there are appreciable changes. No longer at night need every stray ray of light be cut off from the view of hostile aviators. The guns are quiet, and no more do we see the ambulance speeding with wounded occupants to the hospital. Our bullets are leisurely. Gradually the railroads which the Germans wrecked before withdrawing are being repaired. An railroad traffic is resumed prices about one dollar instead of two dollars for his ten cent bar of chocolate. Now that I have seen so much of Belgium, I presume you would really like to know if the stories of German atrocities were true. Right across the street from where I am now an old lady refused to get out in the street and she has been brought to the German. They cut off her hands and she died a few days later. In Dognel, they all but one of a large family had their hands cut off. A boy who was fortunate enough to escape from the Germans in his house while they slept. The blacksmith in this town refused to show German horses, but his hand on the axle and smashed it with a sledge hammer. And so the tales run. Some Germans were devils, a few were gentlemen, and most of them were somewhere between the two extremes.

Day before yesterday I went all through one of those little Dutch windmills while it was working. All the machinery consisted of wood, but the gears were of iron. There was a small sort of elevator which ran by the same motive power. The local theatre interested me, too. I bought the best seats and was treated to the best of the town. I was the only American in the audience.

The streets in Belgium are almost all cobblestoned, and at this time of year generally covered with a thin film of mud. Public women with uniforms, except for a smooth and level as a football field. Brick walls and old castles typical of houses in the country. The road is thatched with straw on top of the tiles to make the house warmer. I will check this road, and build a fire in the stove, and sleep.

With love,
TRUMAN.
Old French Master of the Artillery, Expeditionary Force, Thielt, Belgium.

New Haven—The Associated Press reports this year's grain list to be 1918-19, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 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